



# CAREER DECISION MAKING OF SECONDARY STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR PEER GROUP INFLUENCE

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## ABSTRACT

The investigators conducted this study to address career decision making of adolescents in relation to their peer group influence. The participants were 200 adolescents (100 boys and 100 girls) who completed career decision making and peer group influencescale. Significant relationship was found between career decision making and peer group influence of the adolescents. There is no significant gender difference on career decision making and peer group influence of adolescents.

## INTRODUCTION

Career Development, a major aspect of human development, is the process through which an individual's work identity is formed. It spans one's entire lifetime. Which career an individual chooses depends upon lot many factors and is not an easy task. These factors include family environment, economic, social and psychological factors.

Crites (1974), Super(1983) and Savickas (2000) defined career decision making as the process by which individuals make career and educational decisions contend that it is the main assignment task of career counseling. It examines how people make career decisions (decision making style); the precursors that may influence or impede Career decision making (career indecision) and individual's beliefs that they can successfully accomplish behaviors that will lead to desired outcome (Decision making self-efficacy beliefs). According to Swanson and D'Achiardi (2005), Career decision making or career decision making may be defined as a process oriented construct that deals with how clients make career decisions or the circumstances surrounding those decisions.

A peer group is a social group of people, usually of similar age, background, and social status, with whom a person associates and who are likely to influence the person's beliefs and behavior. Even at very small age, the peer group is an agency of enculturation and learning. Children develop a sense of self from their perceptions of important people in their surroundings, including relatives, teachers, and peers. According to dictionary of education (Edwin, 2008), peers mean those people who are equal in age and status (p.348). The concept of peer group is used in two different senses i.e. first, as a term for a small groups of friends or associates who share common values, interests and activities, second, as a term for virtually all persons of the same age, a definition which reflects the fact that schools tend to be age-graded. Peer group influence can therefore be the influence that friends exercise on one another or the influence exerted category of age mates. During adolescence the peer group plays an important part in providing social support and identity although some of its pressures e.g. for conformity and social acceptability, may generate difficulties. Its effects may be important in the development of anti-social behavior and delinquency although they are difficult to estimate (Harre & Lamb, 1983, p.447). Peers are the primary component of an adolescent's social network and are relied upon more as sources of support and advice during this developmental period (Buhrmester, 1996; Brown, 1990). Hansel (1985) showed that peer status have been found to have effects on both physical health and general feelings of well-being.

## RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Career decision-making is a complex and personal process that every person experiences in his life. A wise Career decision making might be understood as a decision that has been taken upon a realistic filtering of all career options and personal competencies generally required for a particular career. A good Career decision making results in truly valuable expertise and personal satisfaction. It is important because thoughtful decision making paves the way to a satisfying career. It is generally influenced by various factors such as education background, personal values, social factors, financial aspects and geographical factors and many studies have been conducted in this regard. Peer group is one of the main social factor which influences career decision making. Many studies have been done on career decision making but not many studies have inspected the influence that peer group has on a person's career decision choice. Most studies, exploring peer groups influence career decision making, that have been conducted so far were done many years back. This study attempts to take a fresh look in today's context and thereby fulfill the gap.

## DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study under investigation was limited to the following:

1. The study was delimited the secondary school students only.
2. This study was delimited to private schools of Jalandhar only.
3. The study was delimited to variables of career decision making and peer group influence.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

1. To study the relationship of career decision making with peer group influence.
2. To find out whether boys and girls exhibit any difference with regard to career decision making and peer group influence.

## HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

Based on the above mentioned objectives, following hypothesis have been framed:

1. Career decision making among senior secondary school students will not be significantly related with peer group influence.
2. No significant gender difference will exist on the variable of career decision making and peer group influence.

## SAMPLE

In the present study, a representative samples of 200 students (100 male and 100 female) will be randomly drawn from different private Secondary School of Jalandhar.

**TOOL USED**

The following tool was used:

1. Career decision making by Singh(1999)
2. Peer group influence by Sharma(2013)

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

The analysis of the data was done by computing product moment coefficient of correlation and mean, standard deviation, t-ratio has been presented in table 1 and 2.

**ANALYSIS OF CORRELATION**

The analysis of correlation matrix of career decision making and peer group influence for total sample has been given in table 1

**Table 1: Correlation Matrix of the Variable Career Decision Making and Peer Group Influence for Total Sample (N=200)**

Variables	Decision	In-Decision	PGI
Decision	1	.264**	.268**
In-Decision	.264**	1	-.296**
PGI	.268**	-.296**	1

Table 1 shows that the correlation of career decision making and peer group influence is 0.0268 for decided students and -0.296 for undecided students. This value is more than table value of 0.182 at 0.01 level of significance and hence is found to be significant at 0.01 level of significance. Thus there exists significant relationship between career decision making and peer group influence.

Hence, the hypothesis H1: Career decision making among senior secondary school students will not be significantly related with peer group influence not accepted. It means peer group influence contributes towards career decision making of adolescents. Adolescents who had positive peer group influence are less undecided and vice versa.

**DIFFERENTIAL ANALYSIS**

The analysis of gender based comparison in case of career decision making and peer group influence for total sample has been given in table 2.

**Table 2: t ratio between boys and girls of career decision making and peer group influence.**

Variables	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-value
Decision	Male	100	12.5600	1.85494	.18549	.900
	Female	100	12.3100	2.06801	.20680	
In-Decision	Male	100	26.1800	4.14724	.41472	.177
	Female	100	26.2800	3.84571	.38457	
PGI	Male	100	49.0200	9.65671	.96567	1.670
	Female	100	46.9500	7.76729	.77673	

**Decision**

Table 2 reveals that there is no significant difference between boys and girls (t-ratio= .900) even at 0.05 level on the variable of career decision making.

**In Decision**

Table 2 reveals that there is no significant difference between boys and girls (t-ratio= .177) even at 0.05 level on the variable of career decision making.

**Peer Group Influence**

Table 2 reveals that there is no significant difference between boys and girls (t-ratio= 1.670) even at 0.05 level on the variable of career decision making.

Hence, the hypothesis H2: No significant gender difference will exist on the variable of career decision making and peer group influence is accepted.

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